



University of
**Southern
Queensland**

School of Law and Justice
Academic Research Seminar presented by
A/Prof Andrew Hemming

**Will Australia Require Nuclear Energy to Achieve
Carbon Zero Emissions by 2050?**

Abstract

The question of whether Australia can have a reliable baseload power network in the future without nuclear power with ageing coal fired power stations being retired is one of the most pressing current issues. The debate is largely political with the two main political parties taking diametrically opposed positions based on political ideology. However, there is little written about the subject outside of CSIRO's annual GenCost report on the costs of different generation technologies and two reports written by Frontier Economics assessing the relative costs of nuclear power in the National Energy Market (NEM). The GenCost 2023–24 report concluded nuclear would be at least 50% more expensive than solar and wind and would not be available any earlier than 2040. Meanwhile, Frontier Economics estimated that the inclusion of nuclear power in the NEM in the Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) preferred Step Change scenario is 25% cheaper than AEMO's renewables and storage approach. This seminar examines whether Australia will require nuclear energy to achieve carbon zero emissions by 2050.



About the speaker

Andrew Hemming is an Associate Professor in Law at the University of Southern Queensland, based at the Toowoomba campus. A seasoned teacher and prolific author, he specialises in evidence and criminal law.

Andrew is known for his rigorous scholarship and passion for engaging in robust debate.

Date and Time: Wednesday 26 March 2025, 12:30pm to 1:30pm (AEST)
Location: UniSQ Toowoomba Campus (Q402) and Online via Zoom
Zoom: Zoom ID: **837 8355 0254**
RSVP: Please register via [this link](#) by Tuesday 25 March 2025

Please email Sarah.McKibbin@unisq.edu.au for more information.